

Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (EAID)

EAID Grant Process

EAID BACKGROUND

As part of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) supplied funding to states to ensure access to polling places for individuals with disabilities and to inform these individuals about polling place accessibility.

Washington State was awarded \$244,039.00 for fiscal year 2003 and an additional \$175,020.00 for fiscal year 2004 for a total of \$419,059.00. In accordance with public law 101-510, grant funds must be drawn down within 5 years from the year in which the funds were awarded, i.e., FY 2003 funds must be drawn down no later than 9/30/2008 and FY 2004 funds must be drawn down no later than 9/30/2009.

The State of Washington has developed and filed a state plan addressing implementation of HAVA. That plan is available at the SOS website at http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/reform_federal.aspx.

WHO MAY APPLY

County election officials may apply to the state for this money and spend it on accessibility issues until the awarded funds from HHS have been exhausted.

EAID grants are awarded for the following four categories of activities:

1. making polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with the full-range of disabilities (e.g., blindness or visual impairment, deafness or hearing impairment, mobility-related, dexterity-related, emotional or intellectual);
2. providing the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) to individuals with the full-range of disabilities;
3. training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with the full-range of disabilities in elections for Federal office; and
4. providing individuals with the full range of disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.

EAID GRANT AGREEMENTS

Whenever federal funds are passed from the state to the county, an Intergovernmental Agreement must be signed. Since this grant has different requirements than HAVA money, a separate grant agreement will need to be signed by each county that applies for, and is awarded, EAID funds.

GRANT CYCLES

The grant cycle will open immediately and continue until the funds for FY 2003 and 2004 have been expended. The EAID grant application is available on the Secretary of State's web site at http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/reform_federal.aspx.

EAID GRANT PROCESSING

Grant requests will be accepted on a first come first serve basis until the EAID funds are expended or until the fund expires, whichever occurs first. Grants under \$30,000 in any six month period will be processed directly through the Secretary of State's Office, while grants over \$30,000 will be receive a recommendation from the HAVA Grant Advisory Board before presentation to the Secretary for final determination.

CONTACT

Lori Guerrero

HAVA Coordinator

360-902-4169

lguerrero@secstate.wa.gov

Secretary of State HAVA Web page

http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/reform_federal.aspx